

Senate Resolution 792

By: Senator Tarver of the 22nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce's centennial annual meeting; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1905, 59 community leaders of Augusta were granted a charter by the
4 Superior Court of Richmond County to organize as the Chamber of Commerce of Augusta
5 to "upbuild and enlarge Augusta's commercial and industrial life; to enhance its beauties; to
6 encourage and enlist civic ambition and enterprise; to promote and perpetuate unity of
7 purpose and action among its citizens; and to do any and all things necessary or helpful for
8 the advancement, protection and preservation of Augusta's welfare"; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1908, the Chamber of Commerce of Augusta held its first annual meeting;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, since its inception, the chamber has had immense success and benefitted from
12 the leadership of 58 past chairmen, thousands of volunteers, and the services of 11 executive
13 directors; and

14 WHEREAS, some of its accomplishments throughout the years include securing Daniel
15 Field, which allowed for the provision of passenger service in and out of Augusta and was
16 eventually designated a permanent military installation; working to improve and change the
17 Savannah River to become a tool for economic development; obtaining federal funds to build
18 Hartwell Dam; working with the Richmond County Board of Education to acquire property
19 to house the Junior College of Augusta and the University of Georgia Center; connecting
20 members of the General Assembly and its local delegation with Augusta's citizens and
21 businesses through Pre-Legislative Breakfast events; developing the Masters Housing
22 program for attendees of the Masters Tournament; attracting large manufacturing companies
23 and conventions to the area; lobbying Washington, which resulted in the establishment of
24 two area hospitals; working to attract foreign markets; developing the Leadership Augusta
25 program; establishing the Convention & Visitors' Bureau; developing the Richmond County

1 Industrial Park; playing a vital role in the governmental consolidation between the City of
2 Augusta and Richmond County; and developing the CSRA Alliance, the primary advocacy
3 organization to prevent the closure of their military base; and

4 WHEREAS, in the 2000s, the chamber positioned itself as a key organization in matters of
5 environmental public policy issues for air and water, became fully engaged in a community
6 visioning process called Destination 2020, reorganized and re-created its mission statement
7 to strengthen its efforts in advocacy and its approach to partnering with education on
8 workforce development, and initiated the "Augusta First in Medicine" project to explore the
9 feasibility of collaborative strategies between medical institutions in order to increase
10 patients, providers, faculty, researchers, and students in the health sciences.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
12 recognize the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce's centennial annual meeting and
13 commend the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce for the outstanding contributions it has
14 made to its community and this state.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
16 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Augusta Metro Chamber of
17 Commerce.